

The Gazette



of India

EXTRAORDINARY

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1949

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

RESOLUTION

TARIFFS

New Delhi, dated the 18th May, 1949

No. 40(1)-T.B./49.—The Tariff Board was asked to investigate the claim of the slate and slate pencils industry for protection or assistance. The Tariff Board, having examined the matter has submitted its report. Its recommendations are as follows:—

- (i) The costs of production of stone (first quality) and metal slates are lower than the landed cost ex-duty of imported stone slates. The c.i.f. price of metal slates is expected to be higher. If the duty at existing rate of 80 per cent. is added, the landed cost of the imported article would be still higher. Indigenous slates, therefore, do not require support by a protective duty.
- (ii) The present revenue duty of 80 per cent. *ad valorem* is sufficient to safeguard the manufacturers of slate pencils.
- (iii) "Slates, all sorts" should be classified separately as item 45(a) in the Indian Customs Tariff. Further, separate statistics of imports and exports of slates and slate pencils should, in future, be maintained and shown in the Sea-borne Trade Statistics.
- (iv) The quality of the indigenous slates and slate pencils compare favourably with that of the imported products. As however, there is considerable scope for improvement, it would be advisable for the industry to undertake research and obtain technical information in regard to the methods of manufacture in other countries which produce slate and slate pencils of a superior quality.
- (v) The industry should take steps to explore the possibilities of exports to foreign countries and Government should, through their Trade Commissioners abroad, assist the industry in this respect.
- (vi) Although the industry has asked for a complete ban on imports, we are unable to recommend the same. So long as the policy of

licensing imports has to be continued for balance of payment considerations, the desirability of maintaining and expanding indigenous production of slates and slate pencils should be kept in view and the quantum of imports regulated accordingly.

- (vii) The Railway priority accorded to the industry in Madras should be continued and similar assistance should be extended to manufacturers in other Provinces.
- (viii) The Provincial Governments concerned should render manufacturers the necessary assistance in the matter of supply of petrol to and oil.
- (ix) In view of the shortage of paper, greater use of slates and slate pencils should be made by the Central and Provincial Governments. The use of indigenous slates and slate pencils in schools should be encouraged, as far as possible, by the various Directors of Public Instruction.
- (x) The Government of Madras should take necessary steps to help the industry in the Kurnool District regarding securing of leases of mines and reduction of royalties. The Government of the East Punjab should also take into consideration the requirements of slate manufacturers when deciding questions relating to lease of quarries.
- (xi) The Government of Madras should take steps to meet the requirements of manufacturers in the Kurnool District by releasing suitable types of wood through the Government Forest Department. Further, the Government of Madras should explore the possibilities of supply of wood from forests in the Kurnool District.
- (xii) The Provincial Forest Departments should undertake research in cooperation with the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, regarding the availability of suitable types of wood in each Province, for the manufacture of slate frames.
- (xiii) The Madras Government should give both financial and other assistance for establishing and operating an electricity generating plant at Markapur.
- (xiv) As it would be advisable to develop the industry on an All-India basis, the Directorate General of Industries and Supplies (Cottage Industries Directorate) should render necessary assistance for its development.
- (xv) In view of the abundant supply of natural slate stones and shortage of indigenous steel, we do not consider it desirable to make any recommendation regarding the supply of iron and steel sheets and other raw materials to the metal slate manufacturers. We do not also recommend refund of customs duties on raw materials imported by metal slate manufacturers.
- (xvi) The industry should form an all India organisation and the organisation should collect statistical data regarding production, imports, etc., and distribute those and other useful information to its members.

- (xvii) The industry and the Provincial Governments concerned should encourage the organisation of the different slate and slate pencil manufacturing units on co-operative lines for the production and marketing of its products.
- (xviii) The manufacturers should approach the Indian Standards Institution, New Delhi, with a view to evolving proper standards
- (xix) The Geological Survey of India should undertake a survey to explore new sources of slate stone deposits and classify them according to their quality.
- (xx) The Central Government should explore the possibility of settling "Displaced Persons" in areas where the industry is largely localised.

2. Government agree with recommendations (i), (ii), (iii), (v), (vi), (ix), (xiv) and (xv) and appropriate action will be taken.

3. The attention of the Provincial Governments concerned is invited to recommendations (viii), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii), (xiii) and (xvii) and of the industries to recommendations (iv), (v), (xvi), (xvii) and (xviii).

4. Recommendations (vii), (xix) and (xx) are also acceptable in principle and efforts will be made to implement them to the extent possible.

ORDER

ORDERED that a copy of this Resolution be communicated to all Provincial Governments, all Chief Commissioners, Ministry of External Affairs (External Affairs Wing), Ministry of External Affairs (Commonwealth Relations Wing), and the several Ministries of the Government of India, Prime Minister's Secretariat, Cabinet Sectt., the Private and Military Secretaries to His Excellency the Governor-General, the Central Board of Revenue, the Auditor General, the Director General of Employment and Resettlement, the Director General, Industry and Supply, the High Commissioner for India in London, Colombo, Ottawa, Karachi and Canberra, the Indian Ambassadors at Nanking, Moscow, Tehran, Kathmandu, Rangoon, Cairo, Kabul, Ankara, Washington, Prague, and Rio de Janeiro, Commissioner General for Commercial and Economic Affairs in Europe, Paris, Charge d' Affaires of India in Paris and Brussels, Envoy Extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary of India, Bangkok and Berne; Consuls General for India in Batavia; Buenos Aires, Shanghai, Pondicherry, Saigon, Kashgar, New York, and San Francisco; The Deputy High Commissioner for India in Lahore, London and Dacca; The Secretary to the High Commissioner for India in the Union of South Africa, Johannesburg; Agents of the Government of India in Kandy and Kuala Lumpur; Consuls for India at Saigon, Goa, and Jeddah; Vice Consuls for India at Medan and Zehedan; The Indian Political Officer, Sikkim; The Representative of the Government of India in Singapur; The Commissioners for the Government of India in Trinidad, Nairobi, Mauritius, and Fiji; Head of the Indian Liaison Mission, Tokyo; Head of the Military Mission, Berlin; Indian Government Trade Commissioners in Toronto, Sydney, Mombassa, Colombo, Paris and Karachi; Assistant Indian Government Trade Commissioner, Dacca; Commercial Adviser to the High Commissioner in U.K., London; Commercial Secretaries to the Indian Embassies at Alexandria, Rio de Janeiro, Rangoon, Tehran and Kabul; His Majesty's Senior Trade Commissioner in India; United States Embassy, New Delhi; The Canadian Trade Commissioner in India; The Australian Trade Commissioner in India; The Norwegian Consul General, Bombay; The High Commissioner for Pakistan in India; New Delhi; The

Directors of Industries of Saurashtra Union, Rajkot; the Union State of Mataya, Alwar; the United States of Vindhya Pradesh, Rewa; the United States of Rajasthan, Udaipur, Gwalior, Indore, Malwa Union, Gwalior; Patiala and East Punjab States Union, Patiala; Editor, Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research, P-Block, Raisina Road, New Delhi; Indian Consul of Agricultural Research; Indian Standard Institution, Delhi; Free India Service, Tamrind House, Tamrind Lane, Fort Bombay; The Economic Adviser to the Government of India; Economic Adviser to the Rajasthan Union; The Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta; The Secretary, Indian Tariff Board, Bombay; The Secretary, Industrial Finance Corporation of India, New Delhi; and All recognised Chambers of Commerce and Trade Associations.

ORDERED that a copy be communicated to the Government of Burma.

ORDERED also that it be published in the *Gazette of India*.

S. RANGANATHAN, Joint Secretary.